

NATIONAL PROGRAMME AMIF

IDENTIFICATION OF THE DESIGNATED AUTHORITIES

Competent authorities responsible for the management and control systems

Authority	Name of the authority	Head of the authority	Address	E-mail address	Date of designation	Activities delegated
Responsible authority	Odbor fondů Evropské unie v oblasti vnitřních věcí, Ministerstvo vnitra ČR	Mgr. David Votava	Nad Štolou 3, Praha 7, 170 00	david.votava@mvr.cz		
Audit authority	Odbor 52, Ministerstvo finance ČR	PhDr. Evžen Mrázek	Politických vězňů 11, Praha 1, 110 00	evzen.mrazek@mfcf.cz		

Management and control system

The envisaged management and control system will build upon good practices that have proven efficient in the implementation of the 'Solidarity and Management of Migration Flows' Programme. A RA will be Department for Home Affairs EU Funds which will be further divided into two units (AMIF, ISF) and financial part. The RA will have approximately 17 employees. The proposed structure of the unit will introduce a clear division of responsibility and ensure appropriate control system. Audits will be carried out by the Ministry of Finance, thus ensuring a strict functional independence of the both authorities involved. The linear structure of the management will be completely separated. The Ministry of Finance will also play a role of an audit subject which will issue a declaration leading to formal designation of a responsible authority according to Art. 26 of the Reg. No. 514/2014.

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Asylum and Reception Systems, Resettlement

In the AMIF funding period CZ will focus on **transposition of recently adopted legal instruments of the CEAS and evaluation of their implementation**. CZ priorities are ensuring the EU *acquis* standards or preferably higher are duly applied in course of the asylum procedure. All efforts will be put to safeguarding the rights of applicants, with special attention given to vulnerable groups. In order to reach higher efficiency of the decision-making process while maintaining its high quality the CZ will focus on enhancing the decision-making organisational structure and its administrative capacities, including through development of relevant IT systems, training and practical cooperation facilitated by the European Asylum Support Office (EASO). A specific provision addressing the issue of alternatives to detention will be included in a future revision of the national legislation.

The general trend of declining numbers of applications for international protection lodged in the Czech Republic (CZ) can be traced back to 2004 when the country entered the EU. In last four years numbers of lodged applications fluctuate below 1000 applications per year. However, a situation may arise in some regions of the world producing an unexpected influx of applicants for international protection which CZ will have to face. Therefore, enhancing a **preparedness system and contingency planning** in order to cope with a possible influx of applicants for international protection remains one of the key issues.

CZ intends to further develop its **National Resettlement Programme** introduced in 2008 with the aim of providing assistance and protection to the most threatened groups of refugees through the implementation of annual quotas within its National Resettlement Programme approved by the government. In the same time CZ will continue providing protection to refugees through its resettlement capacities on *ad hoc* basis and in close cooperation with UNHCR. These activities are not included in the annual resettlement quota and are decided based on humanitarian grounds and on individual level.

Legal Migration and Integration

In the last years CZ has undergone significant changes in the area of immigration and integration of third-country nationals (TCNs). Following the changes in character and structure of migration flows the Czech Republic introduced fundamental structural changes in its integration policy.

Four main integration policy priorities of CZ reflect the main challenges which are met by TCNs in the host society: Language; Economic self-sufficiency; Orientation in the society and relations with its members. CZ contributes from its national budget to a broad scale of integration projects implemented by NGOs, schools and local authorities. To support the implementation of integration measures at the local level twelve regional **Integration Support Centres** working in close cooperation with NGOs, local authorities and other stakeholders were established. The Centres provide information, advice and support to TCNs, together with courses of Czech language and socio-cultural orientation. The concept of Integration Support Centres has proved to be useful and viable, mainly because it has succeeded in implementing the integration measures directly at the regional and local level, while utilising multilevel cooperation. The main priority identified by CZ within the AMIF funding period is to further enhance this particular concept.

Return

The Strategy for Return Policy was introduced in CZ in 2011. The main objective is to develop a **comprehensive return system** supporting both voluntary and forced returns, while increasing the efficiency of reintegration mechanisms and strategies facilitating social and economic reintegration of TCNs in their countries of origin. The development of this comprehensive system was made possible also thanks to contributions from the European Return Fund (RF). In the AMIF funding period CZ will concentrate on further developing the system of both voluntary and forced returns. Provision of high quality **legal aid** in the appeal process to TCNs subjected to expulsion will be introduced and more focus will be put on increasing the efficiency of **reintegration aid** in order to make this measure more attractive and motivational.

The indicative distribution of total allocation (26.185.177 EUR) will be as follows: 20 % asylum, 46 % integration, 25 % returns and 9 % technical assistance.

2. BASELINE SITUATION IN THE MEMBER STATE

Summary of the current state of play as of December 2013 in the Member State for the fields relevant to the Fund

Asylum and Reception Systems

CZ focuses on transposition of the legal instruments of CEAS and the evaluation of its implementation.

The core legal regulation on granting an international protection (IP) is the Asylum Act. On 1 Jan 2014 an amendment to the Asylum Act entered into force, with the main aim of transposing the Qualification and Asylum Procedures Directives. One of the important changes was a unification of access to integration measures by beneficiaries of IP.

A general trend of declining numbers of applications for IP lodged in CZ can be traced back to 2004 when the country entered the EU. In last 4 years the numbers of applicants fluctuate below 1000 applications per year (707 in 2013). Most of the applicants came from Ukraine (146) and Syria (69). This long-term and stable trend results from the fact that CZ is located aside of major migration flows. Considering the current situation in Ukraine, bigger migration

pressure might be expected in the EU which might also affect the situation in CZ. In this context enhancing and strengthening the preparedness system and contingency planning, including through increasing and improving reception capacities is one of the key issues.

In 2013 CZ allocated approx. 250 mil CZK for asylum issues.

Currently, the most pressing need is increasing and/or further improving the existing reception capacities. This need is due to the current increase of asylum seekers in CZ as well as the second generation of CEAS which sets further requirements concerning quality of reception conditions.

Taking into account the current, as well as potential, migration trends there is an increased demand on the quality of COI and its timely use. The current system does not meet the requirements for a modern solution allowing an efficient use of EU COI databases.

In 2013 a comprehensive set of measures was introduced reducing the average length of an asylum procedure in the first instance from 120 to 90 days. Similar effort has been put in improving quality of the first instance decisions by introducing the EASO Training Curriculum (with financial contribution from the ERF). These measures resulted in decreased turndown of first instance decisions.

The key needs for the future would include improved material, technical and IT support for specific administrative bodies involved in the IP decision-making process. Enhancing the qualification of asylum officers and other staff through the EASO Training Curriculum is also seen as crucial.

The Refugee Facilities Administration is the national authority competent for operating and maintaining asylum facilities. There are currently 7 facilities in place for applicants as well as beneficiaries of IP. These can be divided into three types:

1. 2 reception centres serving to accommodate new-coming applicants (stay lasts 2 weeks in average) with the overall capacity of 200 beds. The applicants stay in these centres during the initial phase of the procedure. Some groups of applicants could be restrained to leave these facilities for a max of 120 days. This restriction is applied only in specific cases, e.g. when the identity of the applicant cannot be established or if the applicant could pose a threat to public order or public health.
2. 2 accommodation centres serving to accommodate those applicants who do not want to or are cannot afford to live in a private accommodation. The overall capacity is 430 beds.
3. 3 integration asylum centres serve as a temporary accommodation in the first phase of integration of beneficiaries of IP. Their total capacity is 100 beds.

Applicants belonging to vulnerable groups are accommodated within the existing facilities in so called “protected zones” with the total capacity of 97 beds.

The centres also offer social and psychological care, leisure-time activities, and free of charge courses of Czech language (financed from ERF partially). There were 623 new-coming applicants accepted in the asylum facilities in 2013.

Furthermore, CZ operates a detention facility for persons who are subject to administrative expulsion. Any person can apply for IP during the expulsion procedure, including in the detention facility. The same rules for movement restriction as in the reception centres are applied in such cases.

In recent years, detention and movement restrictions of the applicants went through complex changes aimed at increasing guarantees and safeguards for detainees introducing improved overall conditions in detention facilities. A speedy judicial review of detention and movement restrictions was introduced by imposing a time limit for decision of 5 days, or 7 days in specific cases. An ombudsperson gained an official monitoring role performing regular visits to the reception centres and the detention facility. In accordance with the Asylum Act, detention of vulnerable groups is not allowed. As of 31 Dec 2013 there were 45 TCNs detained in the detention facility.

In 2013, all the above-mentioned measures led to a decrease of the number of detained persons and an average length of stay in the detention facility has decreased to 75 days and 32 days in case of the Prague Int. Airport reception centre.

At this moment there are no alternatives to movement restrictions or detention of applicants for IP. In accordance with the recast Reception Conditions Directive new instruments in the Asylum Act will come into force in 2015, such as a system of reporting and/or permits allowing the applicants to leave the asylum centres for a limited time.

Resettlement

In 2008, the CZ government adopted a 'National Resettlement Programme Strategy', which sets the framework for the implementation of its resettlement activities.

The resettlement programme is implemented in partnership with UNHCR and in cooperation with IOM. According to the asylum law, IP can be granted to a TCN recognised as a refugee under the mandate of UNHCR. This provides the legal basis for the implementation of the Programme.

The resettlement allocations are established annually, based on the actual reception capacities. In average around 40 refugees are resettled every year based on decisions of the CZ Government. CZ does not apply any specific sub-quotas.

Between 2008 and 2012 CZ resettled more than 100 Burmese refugees and assisted in their integration to the society (financed from ERF partially). In 2013 CZ did not resettle any refugees within its Programme.

Since the beginning of the Programme strong emphasis was put on the post-arrival phase, mainly on the integration into local communities and self-sufficiency of resettled refugees. This has proven to be a challenging part of the whole process. In this regard CZ will further strengthen its capacities towards integration of resettled refugees, as well as its support to local municipalities in accommodation the needs of both refugees and host communities.

Legal Migration and Integration

In the last years CZ has undergone significant changes in the field of immigration and integration of TCNs. There were changes in the character and structure of migration not only regarding the number but also the cultural and social diversity of TCNs. Following this development integration needs of TCNs and priorities of the integration policy have changed. The representation of TCNs in the population oscillates around 2.5 %.

The integration policies are set and described in a strategic document called 'The Policy for Integration of TCNs' that outlines the cooperation among the responsible ministries, as well as other relevant partners involved, including Integration Support Centres, NGOs, local and regional bodies and academia. A document called 'Procedures for the Implementation of Integration Policies' is approved by the CZ government on annual basis. These documents also set the amount of financial resources from the state budget allocated every year (25 mil CZK in 2013).

Fundamental structural changes in this area were made possible through financing from EIF. In particular, integration measures have been introduced at the regional level by establishing regional Integration Support Centres. In the long-term, emphasis is put on the knowledge of the Czech language, economic and social self-sufficiency and on maintaining and further improving positive mutual relations between TCNs and the host society. The services which are highly valued by the TCNs are the legal and social guidance and language tuition. Integration activities are financed mainly from the state budget and from the EU funds (ESF and EIF primarily).

As of Dec 2013 the target group of the integration policy consisted of 267 148 legally residing TCNs. The main source countries of immigration of TCNs are currently Ukraine and Vietnam.

Recently there has been a decreasing tendency in total numbers of TCNs who are subjected to the integration policies. However, the decrease is significant only in the group of temporary residents. This is mainly due to the economic downturn. Numbers of TCNs with permanent residency permits has been dynamically growing since 2012.

Whilst the increase of TCNs with permanent residence permit can be considered as a stable trend, the decrease in the number of TCNs with temporary residence permit is of a temporary nature and it is expected that the number will rise again with increasing growth of the CZ economy. However, the future needs of the CZ labour market are not easily predictable. The needs of a well performing economy would have to be covered by attracting not only highly-skilled, but also low-skilled migrants.

In order to prepare for the expected rise in numbers of TCNs a new system of pre-departure measures and after arrival orientation courses have been successfully tested. It can be concluded that relevant policies and integration measures are in place and ready to be used, even if there is a space for further improvement. The main challenges to be addressed are broadening the coverage of the services at the local level and dissemination of information on the integration services among TCNs.

Available studies on obstacles TCNs are facing in host societies have described that the main challenges for TCNs are the language barrier, the lack of knowledge about local administration and the economical drop down.

Taking into account the current state of the integration system, the key needs for the near future would include:

- 1) Broadening services provided by the regional Integration Support Centres at the local level;
- 2) Attracting more TCNs as new clients, since available research shows that TCNs have very limited knowledge about integration measures provided by the State and other relevant partners;
- 3) Providing information and social and legal counselling, since many TCNs still have very limited knowledge about their rights and responsibilities;
- 4) Monitoring of indicators and evaluation mechanisms (since 2011, 25 indicators are monitored and evaluated every semester. This has been implemented with the help of EIF)
- 5) Further research and continual analytical assessment of the actual situation as well as trends -especially research on integration obstacles and ways how to overcome them in different communities of TCNs;
- 6) Providing assistance to unaccompanied minors;
- 7) Training of staff from both the State and non-governmental sector.

Integration of beneficiaries of IP is governed by the State Integration Program which has been financed from national resources with a contribution from ERF. It covers these three main issues:

- 1) Supported accommodation (commercial rental);
- 2) Language courses;
- 3) Employment support/increasing qualification.

Return

The return policies of CZ are guided by the general principle of preference to voluntary returns before forced returns.

Actions implemented with the help of AMIF funding should reflect the main needs in the field of returns, i.e. awareness raising activities on the possibility of AVR and the increased effectiveness of returns in general. Bearing in mind the objective of sustainability of individual returns, there is also a need to provide access to legal and other pre-departure and after-arrival assistance to the current extent or higher.

In 2011 the CZ Government approved the 'Return Policy Strategy'. Its main objective is to develop a comprehensive return system supporting both voluntary and forced returns. It also aims at increasing the efficiency of reintegration mechanisms and strategies.

CZ has launched a Program of AVR focusing mainly on pre-departure measures, including the provision of necessary documentation. All the services offered in the framework of the

Program are free of charge, with the exception of travel costs, where half has to be paid by TCNs after the realisation of return. The Program is co-financed from RF.

In 2013 138 voluntary returns were realised, with the assistance of IOM. The top nationalities of the returnees were Vietnamese (49) and Mongolians (19) . In 2013, 185 decisions on administrative expulsion were implemented. This (compared to 262 returns implemented in 2012, 326 in 2011 and 727 in 2010) confirms the decreasing trend of implemented returns. The same trend applies to the decisions on expulsion as such, as the total number of decisions was continuously decreasing (2507 decisions in 2010, 2020 in 2013). Similar figures are expected in the coming years.

Returns were conducted with contributions from both RF and the national budget. In 2013 CZ allocated approx. 22 mil CZK for returns from its national budget.

In the long term, the Return Policy Strategy aims at increasing quality and efficiency of particular return and reintegration tools and measures. The possibility of further enhancing the existing tools and/or developing new ones will be explored with the goal of increasing their efficiency, including their attractiveness to TCNs. Efforts should be also put in raising awareness of the available assistance among potential target groups highlighting the benefits related to the voluntary form of return.

3. PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

Specific objective	1 - Asylum
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CZ will continue implementing the obligations stipulated in the EU and national legislation.

The key objective of CZ is to ensure that the standards set by the EU *acquis*, or preferably higher, are met, in course of the asylum procedure and safeguarding the rights of applicants. CZ will put every effort in the implementation of the CEAS.

The national objectives are the following:

- 1) Enhance reception conditions to standards defined by the CEAS or preferably higher in order to assure a high level of rights and dignity of applicants for international protection during the whole administrative procedure with special attention given to vulnerable groups, including legal and social counselling, medical and psychological care, development of high quality infrastructure of reception, accommodation and integration facilities;
- 2) Enhance decision-making structures and administrative capacities in order to reach higher efficiency and speed of the decision-making process and maintain its high quality at the same time, including through development of relevant IT systems, training and practical cooperation facilitated by EASO. An IT system collecting data on applicants and beneficiaries of international protection should be developed. The system should focus mainly on monitoring the efficiency and quality of the asylum system. This system should also generate statistical data which could be fed to common EU systems. Also, an IT system collecting data on COI is foreseen;
- 3) Enhance and strengthen the preparedness system and contingency planning in order to cope with a possible influx of applicants for international protection, including by expanding and improvement of accommodation capacities;
- 4) Amend and further develop the 'National Resettlement Programme Strategy'. The amendment should take into account both lessons learned and new developments in refugee resettlement practices and policies in the EU and international context. The aim is to increase the quota of both refugees resettled through its annual National Resettlement Programme and the number of refugees resettled on *ad hoc* humanitarian basis.

National objective	1 - Reception/asylum
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The key objective in this area is to ensure standards in accordance with the EU *acquis* or preferably higher.

In order to reach the key objective CZ will take actions concerning:

- 1) Provision of social and legal assistance which will be provided to applicants for international protection;
- 2) Specific assistance to vulnerable persons;
- 3) Improvement and maintenance of existing reception infrastructure and services and establishment of new reception infrastructure and services;
- 4) Establishment and improvement of administrative structures through:
 - a) Promoting and ensuring the use of information and communication technologies in the whole course of the asylum procedure;
 - b) Training of asylum officers and, if necessary, other staff involved in the asylum procedure, mainly through the EASO Training Curriculum.

Regarding alternatives to detention a specific provision addressing the issue will be included in a future national legislation revision. The alternatives will include a possibility of abolition of movement restriction for certain categories of persons, who will be subject to specific control mechanisms.

Examples of activities supported by the Fund:

- Provision of legal assistance to international protection seekers including their representation in administrative proceedings, social, medical and psychological care, counselling, leisure-time activities and provision of related material support;
- Provision of specific assistance to vulnerable persons above the standards set by the EU *acquis*, targeting specifically victims of torture, victims of domestic violence, unaccompanied minors;
- Increasing and improving reception capacities, in particular with focus on vulnerable groups;
- Improvement of qualification of asylum officers and, according to current needs, other staff through the EASO Training Curriculum

These activities should result in:

- 1) Improved reception conditions, with special attention given to vulnerable groups, including legal and social counselling, medical and psychological care, development of high quality infrastructure, accommodation and integration facilities;
- 2) Efficient decision-making structures and administrative capacities maintaining the high quality of the decision-making process.
- 3) Enhanced preparedness system and contingency planning allowing CZ to better cope with a possible influx of applicants for international protection.

National objective	2 - Evaluation
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The key objective in this area is the introduction of ICT to all parts of the asylum procedure. This should lead to general acceleration of the procedure and should also ensure the collection of relevant statistical data in all relevant phases of the procedure.

In order to reach this key objective CZ will take actions concerning:

- 1) Development of high-quality ICT system for collecting, analysing and sharing qualitative and quantitative data and statistics on asylum procedure which will comply with data collection needs at the EU level;
- 2) Development of high-quality ICT system for collecting information on countries of origin.

Examples of activities supported by the Fund:

- High quality ICT system for collecting statistical and other data on applicants for international protection and beneficiaries of international protection. The system should serve the purpose of data collection, analysis and sharing. It should also generate statistical data complying with the EU data collection requirements;

- Adequate and modern ICT system for collecting information on COI that would satisfy national needs and connect with the EU Common COI Portal.

These activities should result in:

- 1) Systemic developments allowing for monitoring the efficiency and quality of the asylum system.

National objective	3 - Resettlement
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The key objective in this area is updating the 'National Resettlement Programme Strategy' in order to further develop the National Resettlement Programme.

Related actions are the following:

- 1) Improving and further developing the 'National Resettlement Programme', under which resettlement would be implemented each year;
- 2) Setting up a coordination mechanism for all stakeholders, developing methodology and ensuring adequate reception facilities;
- 3) Conducting selection missions, implementing pre-departure and travel measures and intensive after-arrival assistance to resettled persons;

4) Enhancing the positive public awareness about the resettlement as a humanitarian assistance tool for people in need as well as a measure of solidarity with regions under the burden of migration flows.

Examples of activities supported by the Fund:

- Evaluation and assessment of potential resettlement cases, including by utilising selection missions to third countries, conducting interviews and medical and security screenings;
- Pre-departure health assessment and medical treatment, pre-departure cultural orientation and travel arrangements, including the provision of medical escort services;
- Provision of information and assistance upon and after arrival, including interpretation services and introductory language training and cultural orientation;
- Integration assistance to resettled persons, including legal, social and career counselling, free-of-charge language tuition, accommodation and support;
- Activities aiming at developing and strengthening relations between resettled persons and the host society/community.

Specific objective	2 - Integration/legal migration
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The Czech integration policy is being implemented according to a national strategic document 'The Policy for Integration of Third Country Nationals' approved by the government in 2000. The document was updated in 2006 and 2011 respectively.

The four main integration priorities of CZ reflect the main challenges encountered by TCNs, i.e. language, economic self-sufficiency, orientation in the host society and relations with its members. CZ covers from its national budget a broad variety of integration projects implemented by NGOs, local authorities, as well as local communities.

In order to support the implementation of integration measures at regional and local level, twelve regional Integration Support Centres were established. These centres work in a close cooperation with NGOs, local authorities and other stakeholders. They are operating in 12 out of 14 regions of CZ. In these centres third-country nationals are provided with relevant information, advice and support, courses of Czech language and socio-cultural orientation. These centres have proved to be useful and viable, mainly because they have brought integration measures to the local level and stimulated multilevel cooperation. The main priority of CZ is to further develop and enhance this particular concept.

CZ will furthermore:

- 1) Strengthen its measures aiming at unaccompanied minors;
- 2) Build capacities of staff dealing with integration of TCNs;
- 3) Encourage participation of the host society in the integration process;

4) Develop measures raising awareness among TCNs about their rights and obligations, as well as available integration services.

Special attention will be given to monitoring and evaluation of the integration policy.

National objective	1 - Legal migration
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Objectives of CZ in the field of legal migration are defined in a strategic document 'The New System of Economic Migration' adopted by the Government in 2011.

The key objectives are:

- 1) Streamlining and further enhancing relevant legislative tools;
- 2) Developing simplified, coherent and user-friendly regulation, including through reducing of administrative burden;
- 3) Further enhancing control mechanisms monitoring the purpose of stay and obligations of a migrant;
- 4) Enhancing the integration aspects of migration.

CZ also emphasizes the pre-departure phase of legal immigration in terms of providing information to TCNs facilitating their first contacts with the host society.

Examples of activities supported under the Fund:

- Information packages and awareness-raising campaigns aimed at TCNs.

National objective	2 - Integration
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In the context of measures mentioned below both TCNs and beneficiaries of international protection are of the same relevance. Integration measures will be applied on beneficiaries of international protection where appropriate.

The key objectives in this area:

- 1) Maintaining and developing regional Integration Support Centres (Centres);
- 2) Assistance to vulnerable persons;
- 3) Assistance in educational system; provision of social and legal counselling; support of self-sufficiency

To reach these objectives CZ will take following actions:

- 1) Implement and develop activities of Centres (e.g. language tuition, social and legal guidance, socio-cultural orientation and facilitation of interaction with the host society);
- 2) Implement measures on disseminating information about the network providing integration services, information on rights and obligations and practical information providing orientation on the host society;
- 3) Special targeted assistance to vulnerable persons;
- 4) Courses of Czech language and support educational activities;
- 5) Assistance and interpretation services in areas with higher concentration of foreigners;
- 6) Implement measures supporting self-sufficiency of the subjects of integration measures, reducing their dependence on the State, including an assessment of the labour market followed by counselling and improving their qualification and orientation in the market.

Examples of activities supported by the Fund:

- Maintaining and developing regional Centres;
- Social and legal counselling, i.e. advice and assistance in areas such as accommodation, means of subsistence, administrative and legal guidance, health, psychological and social care and employment;
- Provision of assistance to vulnerable persons (esp. to UAMs) (language courses, counselling, practical support, help in life difficult situations, assistance in dealing with bureaucracy);
- Measures supporting the introductory phase of the integration process, including measures raising the awareness of rights and obligations among the subjects of integration;
- Measures supporting participation in public activities, and their understanding of the core values enshrined in the Charter of fundamental rights of the European Union;
- Measures focusing on education, esp. language training;
- Activities promoting contacts and dialogue between the subjects of integration measures and the host society and activities promoting acceptance by the host society, also by involving the media;
- Improving the accommodation capacities (for beneficiaries of international protection).

These activities should result in:

- 1) Accessible and sustainable network of regional Centres;
- 2) Efficient education of TCNs; supported counselling provided by NGOs; enhanced measures allowing for better orientation in the host society.

National objective	3 - Capacity
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The key objective in this area is raising the awareness and knowledge of the issues related to integration. Both general public and staff involved in the field of integration should be addressed. In this context, research on the subject of integration should be further supported.

To reach these objectives CZ will take following actions:

- 1) Engage the host society in the process of integration through the stimulation of mutual activities;
- 2) Training of staff from both the State and non-governmental sector;
- 3) Support research activities in the field of integration.

Examples of activities supported by the Fund:

- Training of staff from both the State and non-governmental sector, including educational institutions;
- Measures aiming at exchange of experiences and lessons learnt and cooperation and development of mutual contacts between stakeholders. Such measures should further increase intercultural abilities of the stakeholders and further improve the quality of provided services;
- Research activities in the field of integration;
- Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.

These activities should result in:

- 1) Increased positive interaction between TCNs and the host society;
- 2) Professional assistance provided by the State, as well as non-governmental sector;
- 3) Comprehensive research, including on integration indicators, that would help in implementing the national integration policies.

Specific objective	3 - Return
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The main objectives are to develop a comprehensive return system supporting both voluntary and forced returns and to increase the efficiency of mechanisms and strategies facilitating social and economic reintegration of TCNs in countries of origin. Return programs to be developed should focus on the provision of high quality legal aid in the appeal process to persons who are subject to expulsion or ordered to exit the country.

Actions of CZ will focus on extending possibilities for voluntary return. This should address the TCN's who haven't been subject to expulsion but who have decided to leave the country

and ended their stay voluntarily, or whose stay was terminated, or whose application on extending a long-term or permanent stay was denied. Further actions will focus on increasing the efficiency of reintegration aid, with the aim to make this aid a more attractive incentive for a voluntary return.

The main goals of CZ will be:

- 1) Providing qualified legal counselling in full compliance with the Return Directive. This service will be free of charge to those who cannot afford it;
- 2) Increasing quality of legal counselling available to those who were issued with a decision on expulsion;
- 3) Increasing efficiency of the return assistance provided to both voluntary and forced returnees, including through increasing availability of the assistance throughout the country;
- 4) Increasing the overall number of voluntary returns.

National objective	1 - Accompanying measures
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The key issue in this area is providing the legal assistance to the TCN's who decided to use their right to appeal against the decision on administrative expulsion.

In order to increase quality of the legal counselling the responsible authorities (the Ministry of the Interior and the Police of CZ) intend to establish a system of free of charge legal representation available upon request by the TCN. A legal counsellor/representative will only be provided free of charge if the TNC concerned is considered in need due to insufficient financial situation.

CZ will implement information campaigns addressing potential returnees with relevant information. These campaigns should result in an overall increase of returns. They should raise awareness of the return possibilities through disseminating information on particular assistance measures available as well as on particular conditions and procedures related to individual return assistance.

Examples of activities supported by the Fund:

- Legal aid and language assistance provided by public or private legal entities proven to be capable of providing qualified legal counselling.
- Information campaigns on supporting voluntary return implemented by public or private legal entities proven to be capable of implement country-wide information campaigns.
- Missions organised at the national level monitoring return operations, specifically forced returns monitored by the ombudsperson.

These activities should result in:

- 1) Increased level of awareness of the target group on possibilities of AVR;
- 2) Accessible legal counselling and language assistance for returnees.

National objective	2 - Return measures
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The key objective in this area is to establish and further develop a Programme of Return Assistance aiming at those TCNs who have decided to terminate their stay voluntarily or whose stay was terminated or who were subjected to expulsion. Activities to be implemented should contribute to the general increase of voluntary departures of TCNs who do not fulfil the conditions for entry and/or stay on the territory.

Actions addressing this particular objective will consist of:

- 1) Assisted voluntary return measures facilitating appropriate reception and re-integration of TCNs into the social and economic life in countries of origin;
- 2) Measures aiming at the preparatory phase of return operations, such as those leading to the identification of TCNs and issuing travel documents;
- 3) Assisted voluntary return measures, including medical examination and assistance, travel arrangements, financial contributions, pre- and post- return counselling and assistance.

Examples of activities supported by the Fund:

- Facilitation of particular steps in return procedure leading to departure, including assistance in identification of the person, issuing travel documents and purchasing flight tickets;
- Facilitation of AVR, including medical pre-departure examination and assistance, organisation of necessary travel arrangements, financial incentives administration, pre-departure and after arrival counselling and assistance;
- Support of re-integration into the society (financial support, assistance in searching for new employment or conducting a business, etc.);
- Provision of specific assistance reflecting the needs of particular vulnerable persons such as elderly or disabled persons (e.g. specific transportation means; arrangement of an individual medical or institutional assistance to be available upon arrival).

These activities should result in an efficient returns system allowing for realisation of returns, including both pre-departure and after-arrival measures.

National objective	3 - Cooperation
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The key objective in this area is an establishment/maintenance/extension of cooperation among partners involved in migration management.

To address this objective CZ will implement:

- 1) Co-operation with consular authorities and immigration services of third countries;
- 2) Monitoring of return operations conducted at national level;
- 3) Capacity building of partner organisations, including NGOs, international organisations as well as relevant bodies of the State sector involved in return operations.

Examples of activities supported by the Fund:

- Establishing and/or further developing bilateral cooperation with relevant counterparts representing particular countries; including exchange of experiences and good practices. Special focus will be given to countries: 1) producing high numbers of TCNs residing in CZ (such as Ukraine and Vietnam) and/or 2) where implementation of return remains a particular challenge (countries TBD according to current situation)
- Cooperation between governmental institutions, international and civil society organisations on return programs implemented by the Government; regular and *ad hoc* meetings/trainings aimed at updating activities implemented in the returns area and further development of the already established cooperation.

These activities should result in:

- 1) Mechanisms allowing for monitoring of return measures;
- 2) Efficient cooperation with relevant actors in third countries.

Specific action	5 - Joint return
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1. The Czech Republic will participate in the Specific Action “MedCOI4” led by the Netherlands. MedCOI 4 will enable European partner countries to quickly access reliable and up to date information about the availability and accessibility of medical treatment in countries from which applicants in need of international protection and/or human rights applicants originate. This information is used in the determination of applications for international protection and other immigration procedures and to answer questions about the return of a person to their country of origin, especially whether the return would be possible or rather violate international obligations.

As a participating MS the Czech Republic will:

- take part in the necessary meetings/workshops to obtain the goals of the action;
- contribute in the action to obtain, share and exchange information on the availability and accessibility of medical treatment in countries of origin.

The Czech Republic is not required to contribute financially until 2017 when EASO is planning to take over the action. Contribution and organisation of the Action from 2017 on is

to be addressed in a feasibility study and subject to decision of the EASO Management Board."

2. The Czech Republic will participate in the Specific Action „EURINT Network“ led by the Netherlands.

As a participating member state the Czech Republic will participate in the third countries oriented working groups, by delegating appropriate experts; participate in the defined actions considered appropriate according to the current national policy and practice; participate in the workshops for field-practitioners. The Czech Republic takes part on the basis of 10% national co-financing of the project. Its share will be divided proportionally among the participating MS.

Specific objective	4 - Solidarity
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CZ focuses on providing assistance in the field of solidarity and responsibility sharing in correspondence with the current migration trends, taking into account a thorough assessment of needs.

On the bilateral basis, CZ provides humanitarian assistance to countries dealing with migratory pressures, including MEDEVAC Programme conducting humanitarian evacuations of citizens with medical problems. On the EU level, CZ actively contributes by deploying its experts to activities carried out by EASO and Frontex. Moreover, in the context of Syrian refugee crisis, CZ joined the consortium of Member States implementing the Regional Development and Protection Program in the Middle East. CZ provided humanitarian assistance to Bulgaria aiming at ensuring adequate reception capacities for Syrian refugees and established a joint working platform focusing on capacity building of the Bulgarian asylum and reception system. The cooperation with BG included study visits and sharing of good practices.

Cooperation projects with other Member States enhancing solidarity and responsibility sharing will be implemented according to an assessment of needs and actual migration trends.

CZ will further support activities carried out by Frontex and EASO, including by deploying its experts.

National objective	1 - Relocation
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CZ will not participate in relocation activities (transfer of applicants for and/or of beneficiaries of international protection). No activities concerning transfer will be supported by the Fund.

INDICATIVE TIMETABLE

Specific Objective	NO/SA	Main action	Name of action	Start of planning phase	Start of implementation phase	Start of closing phase
SO1 - Asylum	NO1 - Reception/asylum	1	Social and legal assistance and representation	2015	2015	2022
SO1 - Asylum	NO1 - Reception/asylum	2	Specific assistance to vulnerable persons	2015	2015	2022
SO1 - Asylum	NO1 - Reception/asylum	3	Establishment and improvement of administrative structures, training for staff	2015	2015	2022
SO1 - Asylum	NO2 - Evaluation	1	Development of ICT system for collecting, analysing and disseminating data on international protection	2015	2016	2022
SO1 - Asylum	NO2 - Evaluation	2	ICT system for collecting information on countries of origin	2015	2016	2022
SO1 - Asylum	NO3 - Resettlement	1	Evaluation and assessment of potential resettlement cases	2015	2015	2022
SO1 - Asylum	NO3 - Resettlement	2	Pre-departure assistance	2015	2015	2022
SO1 - Asylum	NO3 - Resettlement	3	Assistance upon and after arrival	2015	2015	2022
SO2 - Integration/legal migration	NO1 - Legal migration	1	Pre-departure information packages	2015	2015	2022
SO2 - Integration/legal migration	NO2 - Integration	1	Continuation and expansion of activities in Centres of assistance	2015	2015	2022
SO2 - Integration/legal migration	NO2 - Integration	2	Integration services awareness	2015	2015	2022
SO2 - Integration/legal migration	NO2 - Integration	3	Promoting contacts and dialogue between TCNs and the host society	2015	2015	2022
SO2 - Integration/legal migration	NO3 - Capacity	1	Training of staff from the public and non-governmental sector	2015	2015	2022
SO2 - Integration/legal migration	NO3 - Capacity	2	Exchange of experiences between stakeholders	2015	2015	2022
SO2 - Integration/legal migration	NO3 - Capacity	3	Support of research in the field of integration	2015	2015	2022
SO3 - Return	NO1 - Accompanying measures	1	Legal representation by a lawyer in proceedings on appeal against the decision on expulsion	2015	2015	2022
SO3 - Return	NO1 - Accompanying	2	Information measures and	2015	2016	2018

Specific Objective	NO/SA	Main action	Name of action	Start of planning phase	Start of implementation phase	Start of closing phase
	measures		campaigns aimed at raising of awareness about voluntary return			
SO3 - Return	NO1 - Accompanying measures	3	Enhancement and further support to monitoring missions	2015	2015	2022
SO3 - Return	NO2 - Return measures	1	Assisted voluntary return measures	2015	2015	2022
SO3 - Return	NO2 - Return measures	2	Measures such as identification of TCNs and issuance of travel documents	2015	2015	2022
SO3 - Return	NO2 - Return measures	3	Support with re-integration into the society	2015	2015	2022
SO3 - Return	NO3 - Cooperation	1	Co-operation with consular authorities and immigration services of third countries	2015	2015	2022
SO3 - Return	NO3 - Cooperation	2	Capacity building of partner organisations – NGOs, IO and GO involved in return operations	2015	2015	2022

4. SPECIAL CASES

4.1 Resettlement

Justification of the number of persons to be resettled

In 2008, the government adopted the 'National Resettlement Programme Strategy' setting out the framework for implementation of resettlement activities in CZ. All annual resettlement programmes are implemented in close cooperation with UNHCR (based on a bilateral agreement approved on 10 April 2009) and IOM. For regular cases, selection missions are carried out. The Strategy also provides for the possibility to select refugees based on dossier submissions, limited to urgent and emergency cases.

Based on a UNHCR proposal CZ will resettle 15 individuals with specific medical needs, together with their family members (up to 70 persons in total), in 2014. Furthermore, up to 30 Syrian national will be resettled to reunify with their family members already residing in CZ as beneficiaries of international protection.

Pledging plan

Vulnerable groups and Common Union resettlement priorities (Lump Sum 10 000€ per person resettled)	2014-2015	2016-2017	2018-2020
Syrian refugees in the region	150	400	
Total union priorities	150	400	
Grand total	150	400	

4.2 Transfer & relocation

	From	To	2014-2015	2016-2017	2018-2020
Transfer		Ceska Republika	0		
Relocation (2015/1523)	Greece	Ceska Republika		440	
Relocation (2015/1523)	Italy	Ceska Republika		660	
Relocation (2015/1601)	Greece	Ceska Republika		1,215	
Relocation (2015/1601)	Italy	Ceska Republika	0	376	

5. COMMON INDICATORS AND PROGRAMME SPECIFIC INDICATORS

Specific objective	1 - Asylum			
Indicator	Unit of measure	Baseline value	Target value	Source of data
C1 - Number of target group persons provided with assistance through projects in the field of reception and asylum systems supported under this Fund	Number	0.00	5,000.00	Project reporting
C2.1 - Capacity (i.e. number of places) of new reception accommodation infrastructure set up in line with the minimum requirements for reception conditions set out in the EU acquis and of existing reception accommodation infrastructure improved in line with the same requirements as a result of the projects supported under this Fund	Number	0.00	600.00	Project reporting
C2.2 - The percentage in the total reception accommodation capacity	%	0.00	100.00	Project reporting
C3.1 - Number of persons trained in asylum-related topics with the assistance of the Fund	Number	0.00	600.00	Project reporting
C3.2 - That number as a percentage of the total number of staff trained in those topics	%	0.00	100.00	Project reporting
C4 - Number of country of origin information products and fact-finding missions conducted with the assistance of the Fund	Number	0.00	0.00	Project reporting
C5 - Number of projects supported under this Fund to develop, monitor and evaluate asylum policies in Member States	Number	0.00	2.00	Project reporting
C6 - Number of persons resettled with support of this Fund	Number	0.00	350.00	Authority in charge of transferring the persons

Specific objective	2 - Integration/legal migration			
Indicator	Unit of measure	Baseline value	Target value	Source of data
C1 - Number of target group persons who participated in pre-departure measures supported under this Fund	Number	0.00	30,000.00	Project reporting
C2 - Number of target group persons assisted by this Fund through integration measures in the framework of national, local and regional strategies	Number	0.00	100,000.00	Project reporting
C3 - Number of local, regional and national policy frameworks/measures/tools in place for the integration of third country nationals and involving civil society, migrant communities as well as all other relevant stakeholders, as a result of the measures supported under this	Number	0.00	20.00	Project reporting

Specific objective	2 - Integration/legal migration			
Indicator	Unit of measure	Baseline value	Target value	Source of data
Fund				
C4 - Number of cooperation projects with other Member States on integration of third-country nationals supported under this Fund	Number	0.00	0.00	Project reporting
C5 - Number of projects supported under this Fund to develop, monitor and evaluate integration policies in Member States	Number	0.00	5.00	Project reporting

Specific objective	3 - Return			
Indicator	Unit of measure	Baseline value	Target value	Source of data
C1 - Number of persons trained on return-related topics with the assistance of the Fund	Number	0.00	100.00	Project reporting
C2 - Number of returnees who received pre or post return reintegration assistance co-financed by the Fund	Number	0.00	1,000.00	Project reporting
C3 - Number of returnees whose return was co-financed by the Fund, persons who returned voluntarily	Number	0.00	2,000.00	Project reporting
C4 - Number of returnees whose return was co-financed by the Fund, persons who were removed	Number	0.00	600.00	Project reporting
C5 - Number of monitored removal operations co-financed by the Fund	Number	0.00	10.00	Project reporting
C6 - Number of projects supported under the Fund to develop, monitor and evaluate return policies in Member States	Number	0.00	0.00	Project reporting

Specific objective	4 - Solidarity			
Indicator	Unit of measure	Baseline value	Target value	Source of data
C1 - Number of applicants transferred from one Member State to another with support of this Fund	Number	0.00	0.00	Authority in charge of relocation
C2 - Number of cooperation projects with other Member States on enhancing solidarity and responsibility sharing between the Member States supported under this Fund	Number	0.00	0.00	Project reporting

6. FRAMEWORK FOR PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME BY THE MEMBER STATE

6.1 Partnership involvement in the preparation of the programme

Both partners from the public sector as well as the non-governmental sector were involved in the preparation of the programme.

In the initial phase the Ministry of Interior organised a meeting where representatives of the non-governmental sector were thoroughly informed about the AMIF. This was followed by a consultation phase in which partners from non-profit organisations were asked (via questionnaire) to express their opinion about the use of financial means of the fund and to indicate specific areas on which CZ should focus. The responses contributed to the preparation of political dialogue and were taken into account in the development of the national programme.

A similar initial meeting on AMIF was also held with the participation of experts representing the state administration. Questionnaires were utilised also with these partners in order to obtain actual information about the situation in areas covered by the AMIF and to identify possible deficits.

Moreover, a working group on AMIF was established involving experts of the Ministry of Interior. This working group was responsible for the preparation of the national programme, taking into account inputs received in the consultation phase. This working group will remain active during the implementation period of the programme. It will coordinate and address specific tasks and challenges that would arise during the implementation of the programme.

6.2 Monitoring Committee

The Monitoring Committee of the AMIF National Programme (hereinafter “Committee”) was established by the decision of the Minister of Interior. Activities performed by the Committee are guided by the formal rules of procedure and in accordance with its mandate.

The Committee will supervise the implementation of the national programme, monitor and evaluate developments in achieving objectives of the programme. It will also provide recommendations on the implementation of the programme. Moreover, the Committee will be entitled to make suggestions on possible revisions of the programme. The Committee will be invited to provide its views on annual implementation reports, as well as on interim and final evaluation reports.

Representatives of the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, the Office of the UNHCR, the Committee for Rights of Foreigners of the Human Rights Council of the Government, the Consortium of migrants-assisting NGOs, an NGO governed by the Prague City Hall and Charita České republiky (a non-profit organisation which is a part of the Catholic church) are members of the Committee.

Some members of the Committee are also members of the working group on AMIF. This ensures the exchange of information and fostering synergies between these two subjects.

6.3 Common monitoring and evaluation framework

An ongoing assessment of the implementation of the programme, as well as specific projects, will be conducted by the responsible authority.

According to Article 57, paragraph 1 of the Regulation (EU) No. 514/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the evaluation of the national programme will be conducted by experts from the Ministry of Interior who will be functionally independent from the responsible authority and the audit authority. The evaluation could be assigned to an external provider, if necessary.

Data for the purposes of the evaluation/monitoring system will be collected based on regular reports on implementation of particular projects provided by beneficiaries. The duty of a beneficiary to share monitoring indicators will be enshrined in the grant agreement.

The monitoring committee also evaluates the progress of implementation of the national programme and if in case of need it can recommend to the responsible authority to revise the national programme. It also issues recommendation for better implementation of the programme.

6.4 Partnership involvement in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the national programme

The principle of partnership will be implemented mainly through the institution of Monitoring Committee. The members of the Monitoring Committee were selected with the aim of ensuring a well-balanced representation of relevant beneficiaries and experts on areas covered by the AMIF who are experienced in implementation of EU funded projects. The Monitoring Committee will hold regular meetings (at least once a year) where the progress of the implementation of the national programme will be discussed. It will be also performing other tasks defined by its mandate (see section 6.2).

Experts from institutions that are not represented in the Committee could be invited by members of the Monitoring Committee to take part in meetings of the Committee.

6.5 Information and Publicity

CZ will introduce a website or a website portal where potential beneficiaries will be informed about funding opportunities under the national programme. It will provide information to the public on the Specific Regulations as well as on specific results and actual impact of the national programme.

A list of supported actions will be accessible through the website or the website portal, thus ensuring a transparent implementation of the national programme.

Other mechanisms and activities publicising the national programme might also be considered in the course of the programme.

6.6 Coordination and complementarity with other instruments

In the preparatory phase, consultations between the Ministry of Interior and other relevant institutions were held, including the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs which is responsible for the implementation of the European Social Fund.

A relation between AMIF and other EU funds was identified mainly in connection to the ESF, specifically with the Employment Operational Programme and the Operational Programme Prague Pole of Growth. The OP Employment and OP Prague Pole of Growth are complementary tools to AMIF in the area of integration of third-country nationals. The responsible authorities agreed on cooperation and coordination in preparing and announcing calls for proposal and on exchange of information about implemented projects in order to fully utilise this relation.

Furthermore a representative of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs is a member of the Monitoring Committee. Moreover, an agreement between the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs on sharing information regarding projects implemented in the frameworks of AMIF and the OP Employment was made.

The AMIF national programme will not aim at activities intended as a support of third-country nationals' in their involvement in the Czech labour market (such as requalification courses). These activities will be financed by ESF. AMIF will only support counselling activities, including provision of information on job-seeking possibilities and on relevant support provided in the framework of the ESF.

The AMIF working group of the Ministry of Interior will also ensure a proper coordination in this regard.

In case of implementation of any activities in third countries it will be paid attention to ensure coordination with other relevant partners involved, especially with other Member States and EU Delegations.

6.7 Beneficiaries

6.7.1 List of five main types of beneficiaries of the programme

State authorities, local public bodies, non-governmental organisations, international organisations and research and educational organisations local will be the main beneficiaries of AMIF.

6.7.2 Direct award (if applicable)

Direct award will be used in cases where the beneficiary is an entity under the definition of de jure/de facto monopoly.

It is intended to use the institute of direct award for activities related to ICT systems (Specific Objective 1 Asylum - National Objective 2 Evaluation) and forced returns (Specific Objective 3 Return – National Objective 2 Return Measures).

The Ministry of the Interior will be the user and also the contract owner of planned IT systems; the provider will be selected by an open procedure. According the Act on the Residence of Foreign Nationals in the Territory of CZ the responsibly authority for performance of forced returns is the Police of CZ.

7. THE FINANCING PLAN OF THE PROGRAMME

Table 1: AMIF Financial plan

Specific objective / national objective / specific action	Total
SO1.NO1 Reception/asylum	3,665,920.00
SO1.NO2 Evaluation	628,450.00
SO1.NO3 Resettlement	942,666.00
TOTAL SO1 Asylum	5,237,036.00
SO2.NO1 Legal migration	231,350.00
SO2.NO2 Integration	11,466,831.00
SO2.NO3 Capacity	347,000.00
TOTAL SO2 Integration/legal migration	12,045,181.00
SO3.NO1 Accompanying measures	1,000,000.00
SO3.NO2 Return measures	5,272,775.00
SO3.NO3 Cooperation	190,000.00
TOTAL NO SO3 Return	6,462,775.00
SO3.SA5 Joint return	
TOTAL SA SO3 Return	0.00
TOTAL SO3 Return	6,462,775.00
SO4.NO1 Relocation	
TOTAL SO4 Solidarity	0.00
Technical assistance	2,440,185.00
TOTAL Special Cases	21,646,000.00
TOTAL	47,831,177.00

Table 2: Special case pledges

Special case pledges	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total
Resettlement total	750,000.00	750,000.00	2,000,000.00	2,000,000.00				5,500,000.00
Relocation (2015/1523) total			3,300,000.00	3,300,000.00				6,600,000.00
Relocation (2015/1601) total	0.00	0.00	4,773,000.00	4,773,000.00				9,546,000.00
Transfer total	0.00	0.00						0.00
TOTAL	750,000.00	750,000.00	10,073,000.00	10,073,000.00				21,646,000.00

Table 3: Total Annual EU commitments (€)

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	TOTAL
Asylum and solidarity	960,472.99	1,648,094.00	18,613,147.00	1,930,150.00	2,087,095.00	1,032,533.00	1,262,747.00	27,534,238.99
Integration and return	2,638,605.01	2,638,605.00	2,839,543.00	2,636,572.00	3,245,480.00	2,839,541.00	3,458,592.00	20,296,938.01
TOTAL	3,599,078.00	4,286,699.00	21,452,690.00	4,566,722.00	5,332,575.00	3,872,074.00	4,721,339.00	47,831,177.00

Justification for any deviation from the minimum shares set in the Specific Regulations

Documents

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent By
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